

INSPECTIONS & ZONING UPDATE

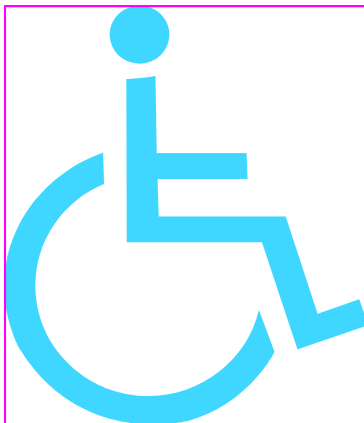
Volume 3 Issue 2

Spring 2008

BUILDING CODE & ZONING NEWS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT CATAWBA COUNTY

Building Code News

New 2009 NC State Building Codes:



The NC State Building Code Council has approved the adoption of the 2009 Edition of the State Building Codes. The proposed effective date for the 2009 NC Codes (Building, Residential, Fire, Plumbing, Gas, Mechanical and Energy) is **January 1, 2009**.

The proposed effective date for the 2008 National Electric Code is June 1st 2008. The Base Documents for

the 2009 NC State Building Codes are the 2006 I-Codes.

During the final adoption process the Building Code Council voted to accept the Accessibility Code Committee's recommendation to replace the NC Accessibility Code Volume 1 C with:

- Chapter 11 with amendments (see web address below for amendments)
- Section 3409 – Accessibility for Existing Buildings
- Appendix E – Supplementary Accessibility Requirements
- ICC/ANSI A117.1 – (referenced by 1101.2)

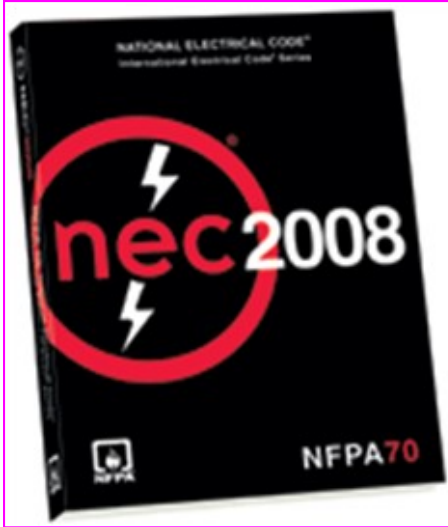
of the 2006 International Building Code. The proposed NC Amendments to the Sections printed in the Base Documents can be viewed at: http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_codes_2009_proposed.asp

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ELECTRICAL CODE NEWS

National Electrical Code: The proposed effective date for the 2008 North Carolina Electrical Code is June 1st 2008. During the March Meeting of the NC State Building Code Council, the following changes to the 2008 NEC was recommended by the Electrical Standing Code Committee and approved by the Building Code Council:



Item 1 Pass - Delete the proposed Articles 10.10 and 100 from the 2008 NC Electrical Code Amendment package. Both these sections referred to Industrial Machinery.

Item 2 Pass -Delete the phrase “and crawl spaces” from the 2008 NEC Article 334.15 as part of the 2008 NC Electrical Code amendment package.

Item 3 Pass -Add a 1/1/09 effective date to the 2008 NEC Article 406.8 (A) & (B) as part of the 2008 NC Electrical Code amendment package. (This section requires non locking 125 V & 250 V receptacles in damp or wet locations to be listed weather resistant type.)

Item 4 Pass - This section requires all 125-volt, 15 - 20 amp receptacles installed in all areas specified in 210.52. to be listed as tamper resistant receptacles (See item 6 for areas).

Item 5 Pass -Adopt the 2008 NEC Article 680.26 (C) as is. (This section refers to an intentional bonding of swimming pool water).

Item 6 Pass - This section requires Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for all 120 Volt single phase 15 & 20 amp branch circuits supplying outlets installed in family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways or similar rooms or areas with a January 1, 2009 effective date.

Item 7 Pass -Adopt the proposed Articles 210.8 (a) (3) and 250.50 from the 2008 NC Electrical Code amendment package. (This proposal will provide the same NC exceptions of the 2005 electrical code relating to GFCI receptacles and grounding electrodes).

The Building Code Council action to adopt the 2008 NEC effective June 1st 2008 is currently slated for review by the State Rules Review Commission during their April Meeting. If the Commission receives objections from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature, the rule is sent to the General Assembly.

OSHA CODE NEWS

Personal Protective Equipment General Guidelines:



Head Protection

Workers must wear hard hats when overhead, falling or flying hazards exist and also when danger of electrical shock and burns is present. Inspect hard hats routinely for dents, cracks or deterioration. If a hard hat has taken a heavy blow or electrical shock, you must replace it even when you detect no visible damage. Maintain hard hats in good condition. Do not drill; do not clean with strong detergents or solvents; do not paint; do not store them in extreme temperatures.

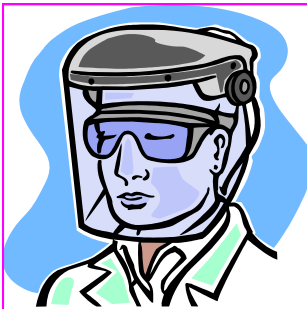


Hearing Protection

The prolonged exposure to noise produces permanent damage to hearing.

When noise levels cannot be reduced below the permissible levels, the employer must provide (and workers must use) hearing protection devices.

Plain cotton does not provide hearing protection. Use earplugs or other protective devices recommended by a competent person.



Eye and Face Protection

Workers must wear safety glasses or face shields for welding, cutting, nailing (including pneumatic), or when working with concrete or harmful chemicals.

Eye and face protectors are designed for particular hazards. Select the equipment to match the hazard.

Use only approved safety glasses. Replace poorly fitting or damaged safety glasses.



Foot Protection

Residential construction workers must wear shoes or boots with slip-resistant and puncture-resistant soles (to prevent slipping and puncture wounds).

Steel-toes safety shoes are recommended to prevent crushed toes when working with heavy rolling equipment or falling objects.

PLAN REVIEW NEWS

Fire Rated Partition & Penetration Designs:



When the building code requires a fire rated partition, the designer has two options. The first using calculated fire resistance in section 721 of the NC Building Code. Second, using an approved design that has been tested in accordance with ASTM E-119. When using a third party design such as Underwriters Laboratory or “UL”, it is imperative that the design is reproduced on the drawings in its entirety.

The plan reviewer can verify the design meets the building code requirement for the appropriate fire rating and the builder has the specifications to construct the partition. But

this is only one part of the puzzle. Every fire rated partition will need a head wall design along with any membrane or thru penetration that may occur. Each of these designs must be reproduced on the drawings for the same reason.

Just like a puzzle, each one of the pieces must fit to complete the whole picture. When coordinated together, the fire rated wall will function as needed to protect life and property just as the building codes are designed to function.

PLUMBING CODE NEWS

Acceptable Terminations for Water Heater Pressure Relief Valve Piping in Crawlspaces:



Recently this Division received requests regarding our policy for properly terminating the pressure relief valve discharge piping of a water heater located in the crawlspace.

The applicable code sections are Section 504.6 of the NC Plumbing Code (NCPC) and Section R408.1.4 or R409.2.4 of the NC Residential Code (NCRC).

The following are three acceptable methods of termination within a crawlspace.

1. The relief valve discharge piping shall terminate above the crawlspace drain required by section R408.2 (NCRC) with a visible air gap, or (continued on Page 5)

COUNTY PERMIT CENTER NEWS



Permits Issued from January 2008 through March

2008: The Catawba County Permit Center issued a total of 2,162 permits for Building Services and an additional 538 permits for other departments in the last quarter. The total cost of construction was reported at \$38,257,778.00. This includes a total of 244 residential permits issued during this same time period. A few of the larger projects were: Snow-creek Elementary School, Carmax, Christ Alive Church, and Mt. View Baptist Church.

Plan revisions for existing permits: Contractors need to be aware that if a building permit has been issued for a commercial project, and revised plans are submitted for review to the Building Services Department, the original "JOB SITE" copy of the plans must be returned to the Permit Center when the revisions have been approved and the revised plans are being picked up. When the Permit Center staff receives approved plans from the Plan Review staff, the existing permits will be placed on "HOLD" until the original "JOB SITE" plans are returned and the revised plans are attached. This will allow the staff to staple the new revisions to the plans and insure that the revised design is properly inspected.

PLUMBING CODE NEWS

Acceptable Terminations for Water Heater Pressure Relief Valve Piping in Crawlspaces
(continued from page 4):

2. The relief valve discharge piping shall terminate outdoors. Relief valve discharge pipes must not be exposed to freezing temperatures. Relief valves commonly discharge small amounts of water or may leak as a result of a fouled or failed valve seat or disc. The discharge water could freeze, thereby blocking the discharge pipe and disabling the relief valve. The relief valve discharge pipe must first discharge through an air gap into an indirect waste receptor located in the crawlspace. The piping from the indirect waste receptor shall terminate to the outdoors. The waste receptor piping shall have adequate fall and support to ensure proper drainage, or
3. The relief valve discharge piping shall discharge to an interior pump located in the crawlspace that discharges to a safe place of disposal.

Local Government Contacts

Catawba County Planning & Zoning
Ph. 828-465-8380 / Fax 828-465-8484

Catawba County Building Services Safety Inspections
Ph. 828-466-5130 / Fax 828-322-6814

Catawba County Fire Marshall
Ph. 828-465-8230 / Fax 828-464-4820

Catawba County Environmental Health
Ph. 828-465-8270 / Fax 828-465-8276

Catawba County Erosion Control
Ph. 828-465-8161

Catawba County Permit Centers
Ph. 828-465-8399
Fax 828-465-8962 *Newton* / Fax 828-322-6814 *Hickory*

City of Claremont Zoning
Ph. 828-459-7009 / Fax 828-459-0596

City of Claremont Fire Department
Ph. 828-459-9296

City of Conover Zoning
Ph. 828-464-1191 / Fax 828-465-5177

City of Conover Fire
Ph. 828-464-1295 / Fax 828-464-1253

City of Hickory DAC/Zoning
Ph. 828-323-7556 / Fax 828-323-7474

City of Hickory Fire
Ph. 828-322-7522 / Fax 828-323-7476

City of Newton Zoning
Ph. 828-465-7400 / Fax 828-465-7412

City of Newton Fire
Ph. 828-695-4284 / Fax 828-465-7453

Town of Catawba Zoning
Ph. 828-241-2215 \ Fax 828-241-9968

Town of Catawba Fire Inspections
Contact County Fire Marshal's Office

Town of Longview Zoning
Ph. 828-322-3921 / Fax 828-322-1567

Town of Longview Fire Inspections
Contact County Fire Marshal's Office

Town of Maiden Zoning
Ph. 828-428-5007 / Fax 828-428-5017

Town of Maiden Fire Inspections
Contact County Fire Marshal's Office



CATAWBA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Building Services Division

100-A SW Blvd

PO Box 389

Newton, NC 28658-0389

For additional information regarding building codes and services in Catawba County please visit the Catawba County website at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/u&e/building.asp>

For additional assistance please contact the following personnel:

Armin Wallner, Chief Building Services Official

828.217.1091 or Awallner@catawbacountync.gov

Joel Herman, Assistant Chief Building Services Official

828. 312.5713 or joelh@catawbacountync.gov

Jeff Hinkle, Plan Review Supervisor

828.217.1034 or Jhinkle@catawbacountync.gov

David Smith, Permit Center Supervisor

828.217.3037 or dsmith@catawbacountync.gov

Reid Goforth, Eastern Area Supervisor

828.312.5709 or reid@catawbacountync.gov

Rick Frady, Western Area Supervisor

828.312-5718 or rfrady@catawbacountync.gov